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LETTER II.—TO A PASTOR WHO WISHES TO INVEST $200 IN BOOKS PERTAINING TO OLD TESTAMENT STUDY.*

By Prof. Revere F. Weidner, M. A.,

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I almost envied you when you informed me that you had at your disposal $200 to invest in books, and that it was your intention to appropriate the whole sum to a select library pertaining to Old Testament study. You are indeed more fortunate, and (possibly) more thrifty than the rest of your fellow-laborers, and you deserve better help in making the proper selection than I can give you. The task you have imposed on me is more difficult than you imagine; for you ask me to select for you a library of the most important works on the Old Testament,—books which every studious pastor ought to have (not a library for the specialist), —and limit me in two ways: 1) that the net cost is not to exceed $200; and, 2) that the books must be in English. Your third condition, that if possible a substitute be named for the book given the first rank, somewhat lightens the task; and this request for a "substitute" explains why you did not mention what books you now have in your library. The selection, as you readily can see, cannot be large, and must be one-sided at the best, and it can only be a beginner's library; for you insist that *everything* necessary for a thorough understanding of the Old Testament be included, from the Hebrew grammar to the latest book of travels.

As all these books are well-known, we will indicate only their general titles, omitting the name of the publishers, giving, however, the (approximate) price. Any leading book-seller will furnish these books at 20 per cent. discount.

LIST I.

1. Biblical Philology.

Gesenius (Mitchell), Hebrew Grammar $3.00
Mueller, Hebrew Syntax 2.50
Bagster, Chaldee Reading Lessons 1.25
Davies, Hebrew Lexicon 4.00
Bagster, Hebrew-English Bible... 4.00
Bagster, Septuagint-English Bible 4.00
Baer-Delitzsch, Hebrew Texts.... 2.00

LIST II.

1. Biblical Philology.

Green, Hebrew Grammar $2.50
Driver, Hebrew Tenses 2.50
Brown, Aramaic Manual, Parts I., II 2.75
Gesenius (Robinson), Hebrew Lexicon 6.00
Theile, Hebrew Bible 3.00
Tischendorf (Nestle), LXX, ... 6.00
Thayer, Greek–English Lexicon of N. T. 6.00

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* In the January Student, Prof. John P. Peters, Ph. D., Philadelphia, Pa., will answer the same question here propounded, viz.: Having $200 to invest in Old Testament literature, what books shall I buy? In the February Student, the editor will undertake to compare and criticise the lists of books furnished by both Prof. Weidner and Prof. Peters.

LIST I.

2. Introduction, Archæology, Dictionaries, etc.

Smith (Hackett-Abbot), Bible Dictionary, 4 vols..... 20.00
Horne (Ayre-Tregelles), Introduction, 4 vols..... 16.00
Young, Analytical Concordance.. 3.00

3. Biblical Criticism.

Variorum Bible (Cheyne, Driver, etc.)..... 4.00
Revised Bible.... ..... 3.50
Briggs, Biblical Study..... 2.50
Chambers, Companion to Revised O. T..... 1.00

4. Apologetics and Higher Criticism.

Smith (W. Robertson), O. T. in Jewish Ch..... 2.00
Green, Moses and the Prophets... 1.25
Curtiss, Levitical Priests..... 2.00
Guyot, Creation..... 1.50

5. Biblical Theology in general.

Oehler, O. T. Theology (abridged) 1.25
Delitzsch, Messianic Prophecy.... 2.50
Orelli, O. T. Prophecy..... 3.00
Briggs, Messianic Prophecy..... 2.50
Fairbairn, Typology, 2 vols..... 6.00

6. Historical.

Geikie, Hours with the Bible, 6 vols. in 3..... 4.50
Smith, O. T. History..... 1.50
Smith, Anc. Hist. of the East.... 1.50
Milman, Hist. of the Jews, 2 vols. 3.00
Rawlinson, Five Great Monarchies, 3 vols..... ..... 5.00
Rawlinson, Ancient Egypt, 2 vols. 3.00

7. Travels.

Palmer, Desert of the Exodus.... 3.00
Stanley, Sinai and Palestine..... 2.50
Porter, Giant Cities of Bashan, etc. 1.50

8. Miscellaneous.

Set of Old Testament Student..... 6.00

LIST II.

2. Introduction, etc.

Kitto (Alexander), Cyclopædia, etc. 3 vols..... 18.00
Keil, Introduction, 2 vols..... 6.00
Keil, Biblical Archæology, 2 vols.. 6.00
Schaff-Herzog Encyclopædia, 4 vols..... 20.00

3. Biblical Criticism.

Roberts, Old Testament Revision. 1.25
Parallel Bible (Revised and Authorized Version)..... 6.00

4. Apologetics and Higher Criticism.

Smith (W. Robertson), Prophets of Israel..... .... 2.00
Koenig, Religious History of Israel 2.00
Bissell, Pentateuch..... 3.00
Dawson, Origin of the World..... 1.75

5. Biblical Theology in general.

Oehler (Day), O. T. Theology.... 3.00
Delitzsch, O. T. Hist. of Redemption..... 2.50
Gloag, Messianic Prophecies..... 3.00
Riehm, Messianic Prophecies..... 3.00
Leathes, O. T. Prophecy..... 2.50

6. Historical.

Stanley, Lectures on the Jewish Ch., 3 vols..... 7.50
Kenrick, Anc. Egypt, etc., 2 vols. 3.00
Robinson, Pharaohs of the Bondage .50

7. Travels.

Merrill, East of the Jordan..... 3.50
Wilson, Recovery of Jerusalem... 3.50
Tristram, Topography of the Holy Land..... 2.00

8. Miscellaneous.

Expositor (Third Series), 4 vols.... 6.00

LIST I.

9. Commentaries.

1) *On the whole O. T.* O. T. with a *brief Comm.*, 4 vols. (Society for promoting Christian Knowledge)..... 6.00
2) *Pentateuch.* **Keil.** 3 vols..... 9.00
3) *Genesis. Pulpit Comm*..... 2.00
4) *Exodus. Pulpit Comm.* 2 vols. 4.00
5) *Leviticus. Pulpit Comm*..... 2.00
6) *Deuteronomy. Pulpit Comm*... 2.00
7) *Joshua, Judges, Ruth.* **Keil**... 3.00
Lange 3.00
8) 1 *and* 2 *Samuel.* **Keil**..... 3.00
Lange..... 3.00
9) 1 *and* 2 *Kings.* **Lange**..... 3.00
10) *Chronicles–Esther.* **Lange**..... 3.00
11) *Job–Song of Solomon. Speaker's Comm.* 3.00
Cheyne..... 2.25
12) *Job.* **Delitzsch.** (2 vols. in 1). 3.00
Davidson 1.25
13) *Psalms.* **Perowne.** 2 vols.... 6.00
Delitzsch. 3 vols..... .. 9.00
14) *Proverbs–Song of Solomon.* **Delitzsch.** 3 vols..... 9.00
Wright on Ecclesiastes..... 4.00
15) *Isaiah.* **Cheyne.** 2 vols in 1.. 4.00
Lange 3.00
16) *Jeremiah and Lamentations. Pulpit Comm.* 2 vols..... 4.00
17) *Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets. Speaker's Comm*..... 3.00
18) *Ezekiel.* **Keil.** 2 vols..... 6.00
19) *Daniel.* **Keil** 3.00
20) *Minor Prophets.* **Keil.** 2 vols. 6.00
Pusey. 2 vols..... ..... 6.00
Cambridge Bible. Hosea, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Haggai, Zechariah. 4 vols..... 3.25
Wright on Zechariah..... 3.00

LIST II.

9. Commentaries.

1) *On the whole O. T. Speaker's Comm.* 6 vols.....18.00
2) *Pentateuch.* **Ellicott**..... 6.00
3) *Genesis.* **Lange**..... 3.00
4) *Exodus.* **Murphy**..... 1.50
5) *Leviticus.* **Bonar**..... 1.75
6) *Joshua, Judges, Ruth. Cambridge Bible*, 2 vols..... 2.00
Pulpit Comm..... 2.00
7) 1 *and* 2 *Samuel. Cambridge Bible*, 2 vols..... 2.50
Pulpit Comm. (1 Sam.)..... 2.00
8) 1 *and* 2 *Kings. Pulpit Comm.* (1 Kings)..... 2.00
9) *Chronicles–Esther. Pulpit Comm.* 2 vols... ..... 4.00
10) *Job–Song of Solomon.* **Ellicott** 6.00
11) *Job.* **Lange**..... 3.00
Cox 4.00
12) *Psalms.* **Jennings and Lowe.** 2 vols..... 5.00
Bonar..... 2.50
13) *Proverbs–Song of Solomon.* **Lange** 3.00
Cox on Ecclesiastes..... 4.00
14) *Isaiah.* **Delitzsch.** 2 vols.... 6.00
Alexander. 2 vols..... 5.00
15) *Jeremiah and Lamentations. Cambridge Bible*..... 1.25
16) *Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets.* **Lange.** 2 vols..... 6.00
17) *Ezekiel.* **Fairbairn**..... 4.00
18) *Daniel.* **Pusey**..... 3.00
19) *Minor Prophets.* **Ellicott**..... 6.00
Dods. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi* ..... .80
Lowe on Zechariah 3.00

The first list, containing about 100 volumes, will cost at retail, about $245; the second list, containing 82 volumes, about $240, and either list will cost about $200 net. You will have no difficulty in selecting from these 182 volumes, costing $400 net, a good library on the Old Testament of 100 volumes for $200. It does not follow, however, that if you should buy all those in the first list, that for an additional $200 you should buy all in the second list, though many of these will be necessary for you. Nor would all those acquainted with the literature

select just the very works here given; for opinions greatly differ as to the relative value of books, owing to the bent of the chooser's mind. But you will not find much trash in these lists, nor have they been selected at random, and you will find that it will be easier to criticise some of these selections than to replace them by anything superior. Though I unfortunately do not possess all these books myself, still I have in my own library 125 of these volumes, and use them constantly. It does not follow that I recommend these works because I agree with all they contain, or even with the stand-point of many. To some this list will be altogether too conservative, though you will come in contact with all the questions now so earnestly debated on the Old Testament field; for in the list you will find a few representative works bearing on higher criticism.

That you may select intelligibly I will give you a few hints. *Smith's* Bible Dictionary is a library in itself, especially strong in Introduction and Bibliography. *Kitto*, however, is superior in its articles on Jewish Archæology and Geography. If you must choose between the two, select *Smith*, although I would not part with *Kitto*. The American edition of *Horne* is worthless, being a reprint of an early edition. The latest English editions (11-14) are the best. I include this work, although there is no reference to the more modern critical discussions, because it contains so much that is extremely valuable, embracing Christian Evidences, Hermeneutics, Biblical Geography, Antiquities and Bibliography. The second volume, edited by Ayre, is devoted to the Old Testament, and is very conservative. In Travels, the list might easily be enlarged, especially with those works bearing on the discoveries of the Palestine Exploration Societies. You, no doubt, have already noticed that the commentaries are largely represented, half the money being set aside for them. I have done this purposely, because the best thing you can do will be to study the Bible itself with the best exegetical helps obtainable.

I am very glad to hear that you intend to spend one month at one of our Summer Schools of Hebrew; and as you think of going to one of the eastern schools next year, I would advise you to take these lists of books along with you, and ask Dr. Green, Dr. Briggs, or Dr. Beecher, or others whom you meet, to weed out and improve the list. If you tell them what you aim at, they will gladly help you, though as they are always very busy, I would advise you to invite them to a carriage ride, and on the way discuss the subject. By all means let me know, either privately or through THE OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT, what books they would choose under the same limitations that you have laid upon me.